

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

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INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

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SUBJECT: CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ON 1974 PLAN AND BUDGET CONCLUDES

1. CENTRAL PRESS NOVEMBER 29 ANNOUNCED CONCLUSION OF TWO-DAY JOINT PLENUM OF PARTY CC AND SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. TOPICS WERE (1) 1974 ECONOMIC PLAN AND BUDGET, (2) ENERGY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND (3) INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. PLENUM WAS ADDRESSED BY CEAUSESCU, WHOSE SPEECH IS YET TO BE PUBLISHED, AND IN RATHER STANDARD TERMS BY FIFTEEN COUNTY PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES AND MINISTERS FROM RELEVANT MINISTERIES. TWO AS YET UNPUBLISHED DECISIONS WERE ANNOUNCED, ONE APPROVING THE 1974 DRAFT PLAN AND BUDGET (WHICH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION NOV. 30 WILL ENACT) AND PREVIOUS MEASURES ON ENERGY PROBLEM, AND ANOTHER ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. PLENUM ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL OF PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SCINTEIA, NOVEMBER 28) THAT SALARIES OF SKILLED WORKERS AND BROAD CATEFORY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOWER PAY LEVELS BE RAISED, AND CALLED FOR FIVE YEAR PLAN

TO BE FULFILLED "AHEAD OF SCHEDULE." FINALLY, PLENUM AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE PLANCE IN LAST THIRD OF 1974.

2. COMMENT: FULL ANALYSIS OF PLENUM' ACTIVITIES MUST AWAIT PUBLICATION OF CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH AND TEXTS OF DECISIONS, PRESUMABLY IN NEXT FEW DAYS. ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE SO FAR, WE SEE PLENUM AND SPEECHES AS REINFORCING SHARPENED PARTY FOCUS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND SETTING AMBITIONS 1974 GOALS, FOR EXAMPLE IN FOREIGN TRADE, DESPITE SPOTTY 1973 ACHIEVEMENTS. AS HAS BECOME FREQUENT PLENUM PRACTICE, NO MEMBERS OF TOP PARTY LEADERSHIP EXCEPT CEAUSESCU SPOKE, AND CONTRY FIRST SECRETARIES SPEAKING REPRESENTED JURISDICTIONS WITH GENERALLY CREDITABLE ECONOMIC PLAN PERFORMANCE TO REPORT.

3. ALTHOUGH DETAILS NOT YET PUBLIC, STEPS TO INCREASE SALARIES COULD BE MOVE TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF SKILLED LABOR FORCE, AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GOR EFFORTS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY AND SPEED UP INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, AND PERHAPS TO MOLLIFY KEY ELEMENTS OF LABOR FORCE DISCONTENTED WITH UPWARD-CREEPING PRICES, HOUSING, ENERGY CUTBACKS, AND POOR DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER GOODS.
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